

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1972

INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB UNN

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: CPRS, PFOR, YO (BENTLEY, GLORIA LIND AND WATERMAN, ANN)

SUBJ: AMCITS RELEASED

REF : BELGRADE 646 AND PREVIOUS

1. SUMMARY. BENTLEY AND WATERMAN DEPARTED YUGOSLAVIA. LOCAL PRESS CARRIES THE WHOLE STORY. END SUMMARY.

2. MRS. BENTLEY CALLED FROM TRIESTE AT 2230 LOCAL FEB 13 TO REPORT ALL HAD REACHED ITALY SAFELY. THEY PLAN TO GO ON TO MILAN ON FEB 14, AND SHORTLY THEREAFTER, WILL RETURN TO U.S.

3. BELGRADE DAILIES POLITIKA AND BORBA FEB 14 CONTAIN LENGTHY TANJUG STORY GIVING DETAILS OF CASE. ACCORDING TO NOVI SAD PUBLIC PROSECUTRO, ON JAN 29 AND 30, BENTLEY AND WATERMAN MAILED LEAFLETS FROM NOVI SAD AND BELGRADE TO YUGOSLAVS WHO IMMEDIATELY TURNED THEM INTO SECURITY POLICE. LEAFLETS ALLEGEDLY ARE GROSSLY OFFENSIVE TO SFRY AND ITS HIGHEST GOVERNMENTAL AND POLITICAL LEADERS. LEAFLET BEARS STAMP INDICATING IT HAD BEEN PRINTED IN BELGRADE THIS YEAR BY ILLEGAL "SLOBODA" PRESS, BUT TANJUG RELEASE CLAIMS IT HAD IN FACT BEEN PRINTED ABROAD.

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3. ARTICLE GOES ON TO DESCRIBE HOW LADIES WERE CAUGHT. AFTER

A LARGE NUMBER OF LEAFLETS HAD BEEN TURNED IN, BORDER INSPECTIONS WERE INTENSIFIED. WHEN BENTLEY AND WATERMAN CAME BACK INTO YUGOSLAVIA ON FEB 10 FROM ROMANIA WHERE THEY HAD BEEN PERFORMING, A NUMBER OF UNUSED ADDRESS LABELS AND 99 ENVELOPES WERE FOUND IN WATERMAN'S LUGGAGE. AFTER IT HAD BEEN DETERMINED THAT THESE WERE SAME LABELS AND ENVELOPES AS HAD BEEN TURNED INTO SECURITY POLICE, LADIES WERE TAKEN TO NOVI SAD FOR QUESTIONING. THEY TOLD POLICE THAT LEAFLETS HAD BEEN GIVEN TO THEM IN CHICAGO ON JAN 20 BY DRAGISA KASIKOVIC, A MEMBER OF SERBIAN EMIGRE ORGANIZATION, WHO ALSO PROVIDED ADDRESS LABELS AND MONEY TO BUY ENVELOPES AND STAMPS FOR MAILING IN YUGOSLAVIA.

4. SINCE THIS CONSITUTED SERIOUS CRIME UNDER ARTICLE 118 OF YUGOSLAV CRIMINAL CODE, DISTRICT PUBLIC PROSECUTOR UNDERTOOD INVESTIGATION DURING WHICH BENTLEY AND WATERMAN ADMITTED THEIR COMPLICITY. ARTICLE CONCLUDES WITH STATEMENT THAT, AS A RESULT, LADIES HAD BEEN EXPELLED FROM YUGOSLAVIA AND WERE BANISHED FOR FIVE YEARS.

5. RED TANJUG (SURVEY OF FOREIGN PRESS WHICH DISTRIBUTED TO YUGOSLAV POLITICAL ELITE) ALSO CARRIES REPORTS FROM REUTERS, UPI, AFP, AND WASHINGTON POST.

6. COMMENT. STORY ALREADY IN U.S. PRESS, YUGOSLAV OFFICIALS, WHO AT ONE POINT INDICATED AFFAIR WOULD NOT APPEAR IN LOCAL PRESS, APPARENTLY DECIDED TO MAKE HAY AGAINST KASIKOVIC AFTER ALL.
TOON

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